Leave to staff of regional rural Banks for attending union meetings

907. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Regional Rural Bank staff are debarred from availing themselves of leave for attending Union|Association meetings;

(b) if not, on what consideration the management Bhagirath Gramin Bank have refused to grant leave to a member of the Bank staff who applied for it for attending a meeting of the association on the 15th February, 1993; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a field supervisor of the said bank has been suspended just for taking over charge of a branch under orders of the branch Manager during a period the latter was on leave ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that the existing staff service regulations of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) do not provide any special casual leave. NABARD in consultation with Government have issued instructions vide circular dated 25th April, 1986 to allow special casual leave to two office bearers of recognised unions of RRBs upto a maximum period of 10 days in a calendar year. This facility will, however, not be admissible to any one who may be claiming to be office bearer of the State| All India level bodies. This will, however, be available to the office bearer of the recognised unions with in RRBs for activities of the recognised unions and would not be available for any State| National level activity.

(b) and (c) No such instance has been brought to the notice of NABARD.

Misuse of Excise Duty on Electronic Items

908. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Total demand of electronic industry for mixed di-electrical|all PP electronic capacitors;

(b) quantity of BOPP film imported under Notification 32|93-Cus. for manufacture of mixed di-electric|PP electronic capacities;

(c) quantity of film used in the manufacture of electronic capacities needed by electronic industry;

(d) whether it is a fact that excise duty on PP granules is 75 per cent against 20 per cent customs duty on finished products together with reasons thereof;

(e) whether Government are aware that Notification No. 32|93-Cus. is being misused; and

(f) if so, total loss of revenue as a result of misuse thereof and steps Government propose to take make good the loss of revenue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) :

(a) The Government do not have data regarding the demand for mixed di-electrical|all PP electronic capacitors for electronics industry.

(b) Notification No. 32|93 Cus. does not relate to BOPP film.

(c) The Government do not have data regarding quantity of film used in the manufacture of electronic capacitors.

(d) Central excise duty on PP granules being raw material is 35 per cent. Finished products produced out of PP granules attract different rates of import duty with a maximum rate of 85 per cent.

(e) and (f) No misuse of notification No. 32/93-Cus. has so far come to notice.

Appointment of SC/ST Candidates in Regional Rurlal Banks

909. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have exempted Regional Rural Banks from giving appointment to candidates selected by BSRB under special recruitment drive for filling up SC/ST reservation banking in those banks;

(b) if not, on what basis Tungabahandra Gramin Bank Bellary (Karnataka) did not issue appointment letters to such candidates for the last two years in respect of Officers cadres; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to fill up backlog of SC/ST vacancies in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) :

(a) No, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had advised in 1990 all Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), including Tunghabhadra Gramin Bank, to conduct a Special Recruitment Drive for SC/ST candidates to fill-up the backlog vacancies.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foregoing World Bank Loans

910. CHAWDHRY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently decided to forgo One bill on dollars project loans from World Bank which were already approved and sanctioned; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) :

(a) and (b) joint review was recently conducted with the World Bank to identify potential savings arising mainly out of exchange rate adjustments, as well as unutilised commitments on non-performing project components. While protecting the physical parameters identified in the various project agreements, an amount equivalent to US $ 1234.4 million has been identified for cancellation. This would also enable the provision of new assistance, as well as the redeployment of soft IDA assistance to strengthen investment in the social sectors.

Norms for Banks

911. SHRI SURESH PACHAURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to adopt more rigorous norms and restrict its capital contributions to viable and profit making public sector banks from the next financial year;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the norms likely to be adopted in regard to loss making and weaker banks; and